

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Figures 1A and 2 are amended with changes to the cross-hatching for the rubber boot 170, a change to correctly identify reference numeral 178 and to add reference sign “VA” to the vertical axis, as shown in the accompany replacement and annotated sheets. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (2)

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-11 remain in the application. Claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled, and Claim 12 has been withdrawn. Only Claim 1 is in independent form.

**Drawing Rejections Under 37 C.F.R §1.84**

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: reference sign “VA,” page 7, line 1.

The drawings are further objected to because in Fig. 1A, reference “78” should be changed to --178--, and Figs. 1 and 2 use an inappropriate cross hatch pattern for rubber boot dust cover “170.” Appropriate corrections have been made via replacement sheets accompanying this response.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Applicant has deleted the objectionable phrase. For completeness of the record, however, Applicant respectfully submits that the deleted language was fully supported by the original specification, including drawing Fig. 1B, to the satisfaction of anyone skilled in this field, and that the deletion of objectionable text is for the purpose of rendering the issue moot.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant has deleted the objectionable phrase.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham et al. (U.S. Patent 2,635,906) in view of Herbenar (U.S. Patent 3,128,110).

Claims 2 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham and Herbenar as applied to Claims 1, 3-8, 10 and 11 above, and further in view of Maughan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,772,337).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham and Herbenar as applied to Claims 1, 3-8 and 10 above, and further in view of Kern, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent 5,116,159).

Claim 1 has been amended to include structural limitations not found nor suggested by Graham '906 nor Herbenar '557. These features, in combination with the arrangement of claimed components and other claim limitations, is now believed to be presented in condition for allowance. All other rejections against dependent claims are thus rendered moot.

**Concluding Remarks**

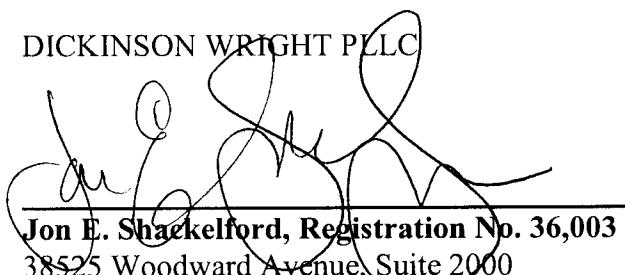
Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested on the basis of these amendments.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or refund any excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

**Respectfully submitted,**

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

  
Jon E. Shackelford, Registration No. 36,003  
38525 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2000  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2970  
734-623-1734

11-23-2007  
Date

Certificate of Mailing/Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited via electronic submission on the USPTO website.  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO BOX 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

on 11-28-07

  
Kelly Makin